

CLAIMS

1. A transport device in an embossing apparatus which is provided for transferring a transfer layer (42) of an embossing film (44) on to a substrate body (38) which is stable in respect of shape, and which has an embossing station (12) having two mutually spaced support rollers (16) around which an embossing belt (20) runs, wherein an embossing section (26) of the embossing belt (20) is defined by the support rollers (16), wherein the transport device (14) provided for transporting the substrate body (38) which is stable in respect of shape and which is to be embossed is disposed parallel to the embossing section (26) and in the proximity of the embossing station (12), and the embossing belt (20) and the transport device (14) are driven simultaneously at the same advance speed (34),

characterised in that

the transport device (14) has a fixing device (50) with fixing elements (52) which form at least one endless member (54) by which at least one fixing section (60) parallel to the embossing section (26) for the substrate body (38) which is to be embossed is defined.

2. A transport device as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the fixing device (50) is formed by a clamping device having clamping elements (52) which form two mutually adjacent endless members (56) by which there is defined a common clamping section in parallel relationship with the embossing section (26) for the substrate body (38) to be embossed.

3. A transport device as set forth in claim 2 characterised in that the clamping elements (52) are connected pivotably with respect to the respective endless member (54).

4. A transport device as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the fixing device (50) has suction elements which are connected together pivotably relative to a single endless member (54).

5. A transport device as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterised in that the embossing station (12) has a deflection roller (18) which is provided in a triangle in a common plane with the two support rollers (16) and around which the embossing belt (20) is deflected.

6. A transport device as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterised in that a heating device (22) is associated with the embossing belt (20).

7. A transport device as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterised in that the embossing belt (20) is driven by means of a first drive device (32) and the transport device (14) is driven by means of a second drive device (62) simultaneously in mutually matched relationship.

8. A transport device as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterised in that at its embossing side (78) which is towards the transport device (14) the embossing belt (20) has a profiling (80) which is adapted to the substrate body (38) to be embossed.

9. A transport device as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterised in that the embossing station (12) is displaceable in relation to the transport device (14).

10. A transport device as set forth in claim 9 characterised in that the embossing station (12) is pivotable about a pivot axis oriented in parallel relationship with the advance direction (76) of the transport device (14).

11. A transport device as set forth in one of the preceding claims characterised in that provided between the two support rollers (16) along the embossing section (26) is at least one stabilisation roller (28) bearing against the embossing belt (20).